

# CITY OF KINGSTON

## Office of the Mayor

mayor@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble  
Mayor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mayor Steve Noble Lauds Collaborative Efforts of Area Non-Profits and Community Groups Working to Increase Access to Quality Food for Local Residents**

Kingston, N.Y.

This week marked the launch of a new resource for area food pantries and feeding programs in Kingston, as the People's Place "Food Hub" held its grand opening on Monday. The new hub, located in the basement of People's Place, will provide additional cold storage for Angel Food East, Caring Hands Soup Kitchen, Catholic Charities Food Pantry, Family of Woodstock's Darmstadt Shelter, People's Place Food Pantry, and Pointe of Praise Food Pantry in Kingston.

Mayor Steve Noble visited the new food hub on Tuesday, with a tour led by volunteers and Board members of the People's Place, along with its Executive Director, Christine Hein. Also in attendance was Michael Berg, Executive Director of Family of Woodstock, Inc., who is the chair of the Farm to Food Pantry Collaborative, a coalition of organizations leading the effort to establish food hubs throughout the County.

"I am truly humbled to witness this new food hub in person," stated Mayor Noble. "This wasn't the work of one individual or one organization. This food hub demonstrates the very best of what our local not for profit partners can do when they work together. Through this collaboration, half a dozen local food pantries will gain access to cooler, freezer and storage space. For many of these pantries and feeding programs, this cooler and freezer space will mean the difference between having produce available for distribution or not, which in turn means the difference between our local children, families, adults and seniors having quality food at home or not. I want to thank each of the partners who worked together to establish this new resource that will benefit our residents."

The project was funded primarily by the Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food Grant from the Local Economies Project, in partnership with The Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley, with major volunteer support provided by the Bruderhof Communities, United Healthcare and UlsterCorps. Improvements and additions to the facility included the purchase and installation of a new walk in cooler and walk in freezer, new storage cages for safe storage for the various pantries, a new rolling ramp to move donations from the on-street delivery area into the basement, and the restoration of a lift to move large and heavy donations from the basement area to the main floor.

"We are so excited to be the home to this new food hub," stated Christine Hein, the Executive Director of People's place. "We already have such a wonderful working relationship with our not for profit neighbors, and this will only strengthen those partnerships. This is another step towards providing healthy food options to our neighbors in need in our community."

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### Additional Information

#### About the Farm to Food Pantry Collaborative

The People's Place Food Hub is the second hub established in a network of five distribution locations to be installed throughout the county. Each of these five hubs will serve the major food pantries in the areas surrounding their locations and significantly reduce the current transportation and lack of capacity issues. They will also allow the Farm to Food Pantry collaborative, led by Family of Woodstock, Inc. and the Rondout Valley Growers Association, to expand its impact. In 2015, the collaborative distributed over 63,000 pounds of produce donated by local farms and businesses to 28 different pantries, shelters and feeding programs throughout Ulster County.

#### About People's Place

The mission of People's Place is to feed, clothe and respond to the essential needs of the people in Ulster County with kindness, compassion and the preservation of human dignity. Providing these services in a caring environment, we aim to sustain health and provide the opportunity for individuals to meet their full potential.